This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

Claim 1. (original) A method for evaluating biological tissue, comprising:

a) treating biological tissue with an iron oxide contrast agent; and

b) imaging the tissue with ^{23}Na or ^{39}K magnetic resonance.

Claim 2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the tissue is imaged with ^{23}Na MRI.

Claim 3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the tissue is imaged with ^{39}K MRI

Claim 4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1~~any one of claims 1 through 3~~ wherein the tissue is cardiac tissue.

Claim 5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~through 3~~ wherein the tissue comprises infarcted cardiac tissue.

Claim 6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~any one of claim 1 through 5~~ further comprising assessing the MRI image to detect infracted tissue.

Claim 7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 through 6~~ wherein the contrast agent comprises one or more iron atoms coordinated with a polymer.

Claim 8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~any claims 1 through 6~~ wherein the contrast agent comprises one or more iron atoms coordinated with a polymer having oxygen substitution.

Claim 9. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 through 6~~ wherein the contrast agent comprises one or more iron atoms coordinated with a polysaccharide.

Claim 10. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 through 6~~ wherein the contrast agent comprises one or more iron atoms coordinated with a dextran.

Claim 11. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 through 6~~ wherein the contrast agent is MION-46.

Claim 12. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 through 11~~ wherein the contrast agent is administered to a subject suffering from or susceptible to myocardial infarction.

Claim 13. (original) The method of claim 12 further comprising selecting a subject suffering or susceptible to myocardial infarction and then administering the contrast agent to the selected subject.

Claim 14. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 through 13~~ wherein the contrast agent is administered to a subject and a magnetic resonance study is made of the subject's heart.

Claim 15. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the magnetic resonance study differentiates between normal myocardial tissue, injured myocardial tissue and infarcted myocardial tissue.

Claim 16. (currently amended) A method identifying infarcted myocardial tissue of a subject comprising:

a) administering to the subject an imaging-effective amount of an iron oxide contrast agent; and

b) imaging the subject's heart with ^{23}Na or ^{39}K magnetic resonance to thereby identify infarcted myocardial tissue.

Claim 17. (original) The method of claim 16 wherein the subject is suffering from or has suffered cardiac disorder.

Claim 18. (original) The method of claim 16 or 17 wherein the subject is suffering from or has suffered heart failure of cardiogenic shock.

Claim 19. (original) The method of claim 16 or 17 wherein the subject is suffering from or has suffered a cardiovascular disorder.

Claim 20. (currently amended) The method of claim 16 ~~any one of claims 16 through 19~~ wherein the tissue is imaged with ^{23}Na MRI.

Claim 21. (currently amended) The method of claim 16 ~~any one of claims 16 through 19~~ wherein the tissue is imaged with ^{39}K MRI.

Claim 22. (currently amended) The method of claim 16 ~~any one of claims 16 through 21~~ wherein the contrast agent comprises one or more iron atoms coordinated with a polymer.

Claim 23. (currently amended) The method of claim 16 ~~any claims 16 through 21~~ wherein the contrast agent comprises one or more iron atoms coordinated with a polymer having oxygen substitution.

Claim 24. (currently amended) The method of claim 16 ~~any one of claims 16 through 21~~ wherein the contrast agent comprises one or more iron atoms coordinated with a polysaccharide.

Claim 25. (currently amended) The method of claim 16 ~~any one of claims 16 through 21~~ wherein the contrast agent comprises one or more iron atoms coordinated with a dextran.

Claim 27. (currently amended) The method of claim 16 ~~any one of claims 16 through 21~~ wherein the contrast agent is MION-46.

Claim 28. (original) A magnetic resonance system comprising:

a magnetic resonance imaging apparatus for ^{23}Na or ^{39}K imaging; and an iron oxide contrast agent.

Claim 29. (original) The system of claim 28 wherein the system is adapted for ^{23}Na imaging.

Claim 30. (original) The system of claim 28 wherein the system is adapted for ^{39}K imaging.

Claim 31. (currently amended) The system of claim 28~~any one of claims 28 through 30~~ wherein the contrast agent comprises one or more iron atoms coordinated with a polymer.

Claim 32. (currently amended) The system of claim 28~~any one of claims 28 through 30~~ wherein the contrast agent comprises one or more iron atoms coordinated with a polymer having oxygen substitution.

Claim 33. (currently amended) The system of claim 28~~any one of claims 28 through 30~~ wherein the contrast agent comprises one or more iron atoms coordinated with a polysaccharide.

Claim 34. (currently amended) The system of claim 28~~any one of claims 28 through 30~~ wherein the contrast agent comprises one or more iron atoms coordinated with a dextran.

Claim 35. (currently amended) The system of claim 28~~any one of claims 28 through 30~~ wherein the contrast agent is MION-46.

Claim 36. (currently amended) The system of claim 28~~any one of claims 28 through 35~~ wherein the contrast agent is packaged in a pharmaceutically acceptable form.